REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment and the following remarks are intended to fully respond to the Office Action mailed September 23, 2005. In that Office Action, claims 1-21 were examined, and all claims were rejected. More specifically, claims 1-12, 18, 19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dardinski et al. (USPN 6,754,885) in view of Culbert et al. (USPN 5,838,968); claims 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dardinski in view of Bakshi et al. (USPN 6,574,663); and claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dardinski and Culbert and further in view of Call et al. (USPN 6,154,738). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Based on the remarks below, reconsideration of these rejections, as they might apply to the original and amended claims in view of these remarks, is respectfully requested.

In this Response, no claims have been amended or canceled. No new claims have been added.

Legal Authority Relevant to – 35 U.S.C. § 103

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. MPEP §706.02(j) (emphasis added).

Moreover, obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. *See In re Kotzab*, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (emphasis added). An Examiner cannot rely on conclusory statements when dealing with particular combinations of prior art and specific claims, but must set forth the rationale on which it relies. *See In re Lee*, 277 F.3d 1338, 1345, 61 USPQ2d 1430, (Fed. Cir. 2002).

The Examiner Has Not Established a Prima Facie Case of Obviousness

With respect to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not provided references that teach all the claim limitations. Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

> receiving information from a first resource related to a first task, the first task information for a first managed object of a predetermined object type;
>
> receiving information from a second resource related to a second task, the second task associated with the first managed object;
>
> storing the information received from the second resource in association with the information received from the first resource."

The section of Dardinski cited by the Examiner as disclosing these limitations relates to managing groups and users in a system for purposes of security administration. *See* Dardinski et al. at col. 68, lines 36-40. Dardinski discloses a group structure in a type of tree hierarchy control, which is imploded/exploded as necessary to gain an entry point into the group hierarchy. *See* Dardinski et al. at col. 68 lines, 43-48. To add a new Group, an administrator finds the proper spot in the control where the new group could be inserted, and presses "New Group." *See Id.* Dardinski discloses adding new users to the system and controlling to which groups a user belongs. *See Id.* at col. 68, lines 55-67. Additionally, Dardinski teaches a process by which a group may be linked to an object type through permissions. *See Id.* at col. 69, lines 7-15.

Dardinski does not however disclose a process that includes receiving task information from two resources, each having different task information that is associated with a single managed object, as claimed in claim 1. In fact, the Examiner does not even identify features in Dardinski that correspond to a first resource, a second resource and a first managed object. For example, the Examiner refers to the user in Dardinski as "a first object" and the group in Dardinski as "a second object," (*See* Detailed Action (9/23/05), page 2) which is different from a first resource and a second resource with distinct task information associated with a single managed object. Moreover, Dardinski does not disclose saving task information from one resource related to a first managed object in association with task information from a second resource related to the same first managed object, as required by claim 1.

The newly cited Culbert reference does not make up for these deficiencies in Dardinski. Culbert teaches a method for optimal resource management between tasks in a real time multitasking environment. *See* Culbert et al. at col. 3, lines 16-18. Culbert discloses a resource

manager that controls resource allocation and distribution and is responsible for maximizing resource utilization across tasks being performed by a real time multitasking environment. *See* Culbert et al. at col. 6, lines 51-54. Culbert does not, however, disclose a process that includes receiving task information from two resources, each having different task information that is associated with a single managed object, as claimed in claim 1. As such, the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness with respect to claim 1.

With respect to claim 18, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not provided references that teach all the claim limitations. Claim 18 includes a management module in communication with a plurality of resources, the management module capable of receiving a request to access information related to one or more of the plurality of resources and to receive task information from the plurality of resources. As conceded by the Examiner, Dardinski does not disclose a management module in communication with a plurality of resources. *See* Detailed Action (9/23/05), page 5.

As stated above, Culbert discloses a resource manager that controls resource allocation and distribution and is responsible for maximizing resource utilization across tasks being performed by a real time multitasking environment. *See* Culbert et al. at col. 6, lines 51-54. However, the resource manager does not receive task information from the resources. As stated in Culbert, "each task is responsible for deciding the amount of each resource it requires." Culbert et al. at col. 7, lines 41-42. Thus, the resource manager merely decides what resources to allocate to a particular task. This is distinct from Claim 18, which requires that the task manager receive task information from the resources. As described in the Detailed Description at page 25, lines 17-18, the information may relate to contacting a resource when a predetermined task is performed and the type of information necessary to perform the task etc. Culbert fails to disclose a process in which a task manager receives task information from resources.

For at least these reasons, Dardinski and Culbert, individually and in combination, fail to teach all the limitations of claim 18 and as such, the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness.

Claims 2-12 and 19-21 are also patentable over Dardinski and Culbert, individually and in combination, as these claims depend from allowable base claims 1 and 18 respectively, and additionally, recite limitations that further distinguish from Dardinski, Culbert and their combination.

The Examiner has not provided references that teach all the limitations of claim 13. Claim 13 recites retrieving task information associated with a new resource; storing the task information associated with the new resource; and sharing the task information with another resource on the network. As the Examiner concedes, Dardinski does not disclose receiving a notification that a new resource has been installed. *See* Detailed Action (9/2305), page 6. Consequently, Dardinski does not teach storing the task information associated with a new resource and sharing the task information with another resource on the network.

Bakshi, cited by the Examiner to make up for the deficiencies in Dardinski, teaches methods for operating a network by using two different databases. *See* Bakshi et al. at col. 1, lines 49-54. A first database has information about topology of devices connected in the network. *See Id.* The second database has information about at least topology, software and hardware configurations of selected devices that have predetermined device attributes. *See Id.* The Examiner cites to a section of Bakshi that discloses a discovery protocol for new devices detected on a network. *See Id.* at col. 5, lines 15-39. Nevertheless, Bakshi does not disclose that information about a new resource detected by the network is shared with another resource, as recited in claim 1.

Further, the Examiner's motivation to combine Bakshi with Dardinski is conclusory and without rationale. Specially, the Examiner's stated motivation for combining the two references is "because by adding the new resource and communicate [sic] with that resource would help [sic]." Detailed Action (9/23/05), page 6. An Examiner cannot rely on conclusory statements when dealing with particular combinations of prior art and specific claims, but must set forth the rationale on which he relies. *See In re Lee* (cited supra). Accordingly, the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness, because he has not cited references that disclose all the limitations of claim 13 and has not provided the requisite rationale for combining Bakshi with Dardinski.

Claims 4-17 are also patentable over Dardinski and Bakshi, individually and in combination, as these claims depend from allowable base claim 13, and additionally, recite limitations that further distinguish from Dardinski and Bakshi.

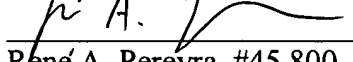
Conclusion

It is believed that no further fees are due with this Response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725. Moreover, since the remarks above are believed to distinguish over the applied reference(s), Applicants specifically do not acquiesce to any other arguments not addressed herein that arguably support the claim rejections.

In light of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attempt to resolve those issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/23/2005



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